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APPLICATION

FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

SPECIFICATION

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BE IT KNOWN THAT WE, **ROBERT MASTROMATTO**, a citizen of UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, and **FRANK CERMINARA, JR.**, a citizen of UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have invented a new and useful **SLIDING TARP ASSEMBLY** of which the following is a specification:

SLIDING TARP ASSEMBLY

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to object moving tools and accessories and more particularly pertains to a new sliding tarp assembly for facilitating movement of objects.

Description of the Prior Art

The use of object moving tools and accessories is known in the prior art. U.S. Patent No. 4,887,823 describes a sheet having a tapered leading end when wrapped around a dead animal for easing sliding of the dead animal. Another type of object moving tool is U.S. Patent No. 5,104,133 having a sheet and line handle structure that promotes enclosure of yard debris within the sheet when the handle is pulled. U.S. Patent No. 5,911,463 discloses a sheet-like main portion and handles arranged for receiving and transporting yard debris.

While these devices fulfill their respective, particular objectives and requirements, the need remains for a sliding tarp assembly that is useful for moving either large items or collections of small items easily.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention generally comprises a sheet of material and a plurality of sliding members having low friction for facilitating sliding of the sheet of material on a support surface.

There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the invention in order that the detailed description thereof that follows may be better understood, and in order that the present contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are additional features of the invention that will be described hereinafter and which will form the subject matter of the claims appended hereto.

The objects of the invention, along with the various features of novelty which characterize the invention, are pointed out with particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this disclosure.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will be better understood and objects other than those set forth above will become apparent when consideration is given to the following detailed description thereof. Such description makes reference to the annexed drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is a bottom view of a new sliding tarp assembly according to the present invention.

Figure 2 is an in use side view of the present invention.

Figure 3 is a top view of an alternate configuration of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

With reference now to the drawings, and in particular to Figures 1 through 3 thereof, a new sliding tarp assembly embodying the principles and concepts of the present invention and generally designated by the reference numeral 10 will be described.

As best illustrated in Figures 1 through 3, the sliding tarp assembly 10 generally comprises a sheet of material 12 and a plurality of sliding members 14 coupled to extend from a face 16 of the sheet of material 12. The sliding members 14 form a grid 18 of sliding members 14. Thus, the sheet of material 12 is designed for facilitating sliding an item 2 placed on the sheet of material 12 on a support surface 4 when the sliding members 14 are positioned contacting the support surface 4.

The plurality of sliding members 14 includes a first set of sliding members 20 and a second set of sliding members 22. Each sliding member 14 of the first set 20 is larger than each sliding member 14 of the second set 22. The first set 20 of sliding members 14 are positioned in a central portion 24 of the face 16 of the sheet of material 12. The second set 22 of sliding members 14 are positioned on outer portions 26 of the face 16 of the sheet of material 12.

A plurality of straps 28 are coupled to the sheet of material 12 for facilitating securing of the sheet of material 12 around an item 2 positioned on the sheet of material 12. The straps 28 may

also serve to facilitate grasping the sheet of material 12 during use. The item may be a single large heavy item that is more easily slid along a surface than lifted or a collection of items that a person wishes to transfer an a group such as leaves. Each strap 28 is coupled to a perimeter edge 30 of the sheet of material 12.

As an alternative or in combination with the straps 28, The sheet of material 12 may alternately include a plurality of cutout portions 32. The cutout portions 32 are positioned proximate to the perimeter edge 30 of the sheet of material 12 for forming a plurality of handles 34 to facilitate manipulation of the sheet of material 12. The plurality of handles 34 may alternately be formed by other conventional forms of handles such as loops or pieces of hardware coupled to the sheet of material for facilitating manipulation of the sheet of material 12.

In an embodiment, each sliding member 14 has a convex outer surface 36 for facilitating sliding of the sliding members 14 on the support surface 4. Further, each of the sliding members 14 may have a coating 38 such as tetrafluoroethylene, sold under the trade name TEFLON, for reducing friction between the sliding members 14 and the support surface 4.

In an embodiment, the sheet of material 12 has a generally rectangular main portion 40 and an extension portion 42 for facilitating grasping of the sheet of material 12 while the main portion 40 remains positioned adjacent the support surface 4. The extension portion 42 has a rounded outer edge 44 such that a medial portion 46 of the extension portion 42 has a length greater than a length of side portions 48 of the extension portion 42. At least one

handle 52 is coupled to the extension portion 42. The handle 52A is aligned with a center 50 of the outer edge 44 of the extension portion 42. With or without the handle 52A, a pair of handles 52B may be integrally formed in the extension portion 42. The handles 52B are symmetrically aligned on opposite sides of the center 50 of the outer edge 44 of the extension portion 42.

In use, the sheet of material is placed on a support surface with the sliding members contacting the support surface. An item such as a piece of furniture or a collection of items such as leaves or compost are positioned on the sheet of material. The straps are then used to secure the sheet of material to the item or to the sheet of material itself such that the sheet of material is secured to the item. The sheet of material is then typically pulled using one or more handles although some items may be susceptible to being pushed after the sheet of material has been secured.

With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that the optimum dimensional relationships for the parts of the invention, to include variations in size, materials, shape, form, function and manner of operation, assembly and use, are deemed readily apparent and obvious to one skilled in the art, and all equivalent relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and described in the specification are intended to be encompassed by the present invention. Further, except where mutually exclusive, the various features described above can be combined in various permutations to form various embodiments that would be readily apparent to one skilled in the art in light of the present disclosure.

Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous

modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention.